

Memories of the Boy Scout Troop in Lehi

By LaDrue Dorton

On my twelfth birthday I joined the Boy Scouts of America, just in time to join our troop at a summer encampment scheduled for the first week in August at Aspen Grove Campground. Aspen Grove was located at, or near the summit of a road that ran between American Fork Canyon and Provo Canyon and was used by many organizations in and around Utah County. This road was known locally as the “loop road” and at that time was unpaved, and in many places, “oneway.”

We were transported to the campground by our troop leader in a flat-bed truck. The camp had several tents with wooden floors, canvas cots for sleeping and a large tent for cooking and serving meals. I don't recall much of the day-to-day routine, but a couple of things come to mind. One was the hike up to the top of Mount Timpanogos and the slide down the glacier on our return.

The second was our handicraft project. Each scout was expected to complete a project while at camp and I elected to make a bow and arrow set for mine. There was a small fee for the raw materials, which consisted of a piece of hardwood, hickory I believe, about one inch square and about five feet long, a couple quarter-inch dowels and feathers for arrows and some flax fibers and bees' wax from which to make the bow string. I was glad that I had a little money left, from what I had earned picking strawberries, after paying my registration fee for the encampment.

I still remember how cold it was at four o'clock in the morning when the truck picked us up to take us to the strawberry farm on Provo Bench, or Orem as it is now known as, about ten miles away. But I digress...after some hard work with a plane, a rasp, some sandpaper and some help from the troop leader, the project was completed.

When I arrived home, Grandfather said that the bow looked pretty good and suggested that I rub it down with boiled linseed oil and give it a coat or two of shellac. I took his advice and I still had the bow when we moved to Fort Sill, Oklahoma in 1946. Perhaps someone in the family has it or knows what became of it.